



# Water Quality Report - 2005

## Municipal Water Supply

### Eau Claire, Wisconsin

The purpose of this report is to summarize the results of the water testing conducted on the Eau Claire water system during calendar year of 2005. The report has been prepared to meet the requirements of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) adopted by Congress and to provide our customers with information about their municipal water system. We take pride in the quality of the drinking water supplied to our customers and continue to work diligently to assure the delivery of reliable and safe water.

The Eau Claire Water Utility encourages public interest and participation in our



community's decisions affecting drinking water. For information on the water system, contact the Water Utility by telephone at (715) 839-5045 or by writing to Utility Administrator, 203 S. Farwell Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701. Regular City Council public discussion meetings are held on the Monday preceding the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Council Chambers, located in City Hall at 203 S. Farwell Street, at 7:00 p.m. Please contact the City Manager's Office at (715) 839-4902 to have an item placed on the agenda or to make arrangements for reasonable accommodation.

## Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental

Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer, undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from health care providers.

EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Cryptosporidium is a problem associated with surface water supplies. Eau Claire obtains its water from

ground water supplies and is therefore not expected to be subject to the problems typically associated with Cryptosporidium.

If you are interested in more information, please contact the Water Utility at (715) 839-5045. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Water Source

The Eau Claire Water Utility draws water from fifteen (15) wells located in the City well field on Riverview Drive. The wells pump water found underground into the water treatment plant. The water treatment plant filters the water to remove iron and manganese before it is pumped into the water distribution system. These minerals are not a health concern and are removed because they can discolor the water and create a slight taste of iron. The

### Important Information for our Hmong Customers

This is important information about drinking water in the City of Eau Claire. If you cannot read this, please have someone interpret it for you.

Ntawm no yog cov lus tseem ceeb qhia txog kev haus dej nyob rau hauv nroog Eau Claire. Yog nej nyeem tsis tau no thov neeg txhais cov lus hauv no rau nej.

water is also chlorinated for disinfection and fluoride is added for dental purposes before it is pumped into the water pipe system.

The City does not take surface water directly from the Chippewa River. The wells intercept water that is slowly moving in the ground towards the Chippewa River. As the water passes through the ground it can pick up dissolved minerals and in some cases

substances that result from human or animal activity. For these reasons extensive testing is conducted on the water as it is pumped from the wells and after it has been treated and delivered into the distribution system. The testing is conducted at certified laboratories.

A source water assessment is required for all public water systems. The

assessment identifies land areas that contribute water to each system, significant potential contaminant sources within those areas, and the susceptibility of the drinking water systems to contamination. A summary of the source water assessment for Eau Claire Waterworks is available at: [http://prodmtex00.dnr.state.wi.us/pls/inter1/pk\\_swap\\_web.p\\_swap\\_summary?i\\_ro\\_seq\\_no=145622](http://prodmtex00.dnr.state.wi.us/pls/inter1/pk_swap_web.p_swap_summary?i_ro_seq_no=145622).

## Educational Information



The sources of drinking water, both tap water and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ◆ Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- ◆ Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- ◆ Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- ◆ Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- ◆ Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

### Number of Contaminants Required to be Tested

This table displays the number of contaminants that were required to be tested in the last five years. The CCR may contain up to five years worth of water quality results. If a water system tests annually, or more frequently, the results from the most recent year are shown on the CCR. If testing is done less frequently, the results shown on the CCR are from the past five years.

<u>Contaminant Group</u>	<u># of Contaminants Tested</u>
Inorganic Contaminants	16
Disinfection Byproducts	1
Radioactive Contaminants	1
Unregulated Contaminants	33
Microbiological Contaminants	2
Volatile Organic Contaminants	21
Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides	27

The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old.

# WATER QUALITY TABLE - 2005

## Detected Substances

This report is based upon tests conducted in the year of 2005 (or earlier as noted) by the Eau Claire Water Utility. The results of the testing are summarized on the table included with this report. Although many tests were run to detect possible contaminants, only those actually found as a result of the testing, that have a health related limit, are shown in the table.

Parameter (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Violation	Source
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>						
HAA5 (ppb)	60	60	20	20	No	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
BARIUM (ppm)	2	2	.005 avg.	.005-.006	No	Natural deposits
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	.0240	.0021-.0370	No	Natural deposits and corrosion of plumbing
FLUORIDE (ppm)	4	4	1.1 avg.	.8-1.3	No	Natural deposits and water additive for dental benefits
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0	2.50	nd-12.00	No	Natural deposits and corrosion of plumbing
NITRATE (NO <sub>3</sub> -N)(ppm)	10	10	1.18 avg.	.96-1.40	No	Natural deposits
SELENIUM (ppb)	50	50	1 avg.	nd-2	No	Natural deposits
SODIUM (ppm)	n/a	n/a	7.90 avg.	7.30-8.50	No	n/a
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/l) Tested 8/20/02	15	0	1.7	.0-1.7	No	Natural deposits
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>						
BROMODICHLOROMETHANE (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.61 avg.	.53-3.00	No	n/a
CHLOROFORM (ppb)	n/a	n/a	14.57 avg.	7.70-25.00	No	n/a
DIBROMOCHLOROMETHANE (ppb)	n/a	n/a	.18 avg.	nd-.35	No	n/a
SULFATE (ppm)	n/a	n/a	5.25 avg.	4.30-6.20	No	n/a
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>						
TOLUENE (ppm)	1	1	.0002	.0002	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
TTHM (ppb)	80	0	16.4 avg.	8.2-28.4	No	By-product of chlorination

Term	Definition
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
nd	Not detected
pCi/l	Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm	Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb	Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)



City of Eau Claire  
203 South Farwell  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EAU CLAIRE, WI  
PERMIT NO. 1115



*Department of Public Works*

June 2006

*Dear Water Utility Customer,*

The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) created a public information requirement for municipal water systems. The City of Eau Claire Water Utility is required to annually publish a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and to distribute a copy to all water utility customers. This is the eighth annual report, entitled "Water Quality Report – 2005". The report describes the results of testing on the water system for calendar year 2005, along with information about the water supply.

We hope that you find the information contained in this report to be useful. If you have any questions about this report or the water system, please contact the Water Utility at (715) 839-5045 or in writing to Utility Administrator, 203 S. Farwell Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701.

Water Utility  
City of Eau Claire